4

and hourly for the Lord to be with you wherever you go, and give his blessing on your health, and protect you from all the accidents to which human nature is exposed. I am sure my you have never been out of my mind since you left the room. I am grieved about the swelling in your face, and the more so as

8

9

mercial road. Silvest came to see me and quite surprised to find the child grown so lar he says as soon as his quarter is up, he will vance something towards the watch, he h your; I thanked him in your name. I a bought a bit of Easter Susan's cow—it is ve her the remainder: I have like the bo

Mr. Buckingham

William Stephens
Hayne. Newman

THE

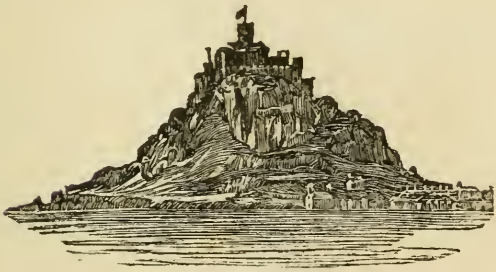
# HISTORY

OF

# MOUNT'S BAY,

COMPRISING

SAINT MICHAEL'S MOUNT, MARAZION,
PENZANCE, NEWLYN, MOUSE-
HOLE, &c. &c.



"A Gem set in the silver Sea."

PENZANCE;
PRINTED AND SOLD BY J. THOMAS.
1820.

# PREFACE.

In compiling a work of this nature, the chief object in view, has been to supply, at a moderate expence, an ancient and modern history of the most interesting parts of *Mount's Bay*, which is esteemed more antique and romantic, than any other part of England.

With this view, the compiler has been induced to cull from the various publications on this district, an account of every thing remarkable in it; in doing which, he has omitted all abtruse arguments, or disputable points, being well aware that to the generality of readers they afford little or no entertainment.

Under these impressions, the compiler ventures to recommend this work to a generous public, as it will afford ample amusement to the traveller, resident, and native.

Penzance, 11th May, 1820.

# THE HISTORY OF

# MOUNT'S BAY.

BEFORE we proceed to investigate the towns and villages in this district, it will be necessary to give a brief account of this delightful and justly celebrated *Bay*, which is situated at the most western extremity of England; it is formed by an irregularly curved outline of several miles in extent, whose southern and western points form the promontories of the *Lizard* and *Land's End*.

The *Mount's Bay* presents a most delightful and interesting view to travellers, as its shores are sprinkled with towns, villages, churches, cottages, and villas; and near its eastern margin, a pile of rocks, supporting a

venerable chapel and tower on their summit, start abruptly from the waves and present a most singular and pleasing appearance, this is *St. Michael's Mount*, from which this pleasant part of our Island derives its name.

The CLIMATE of this *Bay* is the principal circumstance which has contributed to its celebrity, and has proved so inviting and beneficial to consumptive patients; notwithstanding its southern latitude, the summers are never sultry, on account of the winds which gently blow from the surrounding seas; whilst the cold of winter is equally ameliorated, so that frosts are but of a few hours duration, and those snow storms which come from the north and east, and bury the fields of every other part of England, are generally exhausted before they reach this favored spot, or are dissolved by its warm breezes;—indeed our winters are nothing more than languid springs, as all green-

house plants in other places, are here constantly exposed all the winter, notwithstanding which they flower most luxuriantly during the summer; it might also be observed, that when pot-herbs of all kinds, are destroyed in other counties, our markets are constantly supplied;—and here a favorable opportunity occurs of placing upon record a testimony of the mildness of this spot, during the last winter, (1819) when the cold was so dreadfully severe, the rivers frozen up, and the fields buried with snow in every other part of Great Britain, the *Mount's Bay* was nearly exempted from snow, and the frost was so gentle, that the huntsman was not deprived of his sport for a single hour.

From the peninsular situation of Cornwall, and its proximity to the atlantic ocean, over which it blows nearly three quarters of the year, the weather is certainly very subject to rain, and it is found that when other

parts of England suffer by drought, that Cornwall has seldom any reason to complain; this peculiarity seems highly congenial to the inhabitants, as well as to their soil, a Cornishman never enjoys better health and spirits than in rainy weather, and there is a popular adage, that "*the land of Cornwall will bear a shower every weekday and two on a sunday;*" it may however be remarked, that the rains in Cornwall are rather frequent than heavy, and excessive, indeed it has been satisfactorily ascertained by experience that the actual quantity is not greater than in other Counties; there is very rarely a day so thoroughly wet, but that there is a considerable intermission, nor so obscure, but that the sun often penetrates the gloom; notwithstanding the supposed moisture of Cornwall, the dry and porous nature of the soil soon disposes of any water, so that after a very short cessation of rain, the most delicate invalid may safely venture abroad to enjoy the

delightful walks, which every where surround this *Bay*.—Having given a brief sketch of the *Bay*, we will now introduce to our readers, some historical account of

## ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT.

This sublime spectacle is situate within the range of the parish of St. Hillary, and is one of those rare and singular objects which impress the mind with sensations of veneration, pleasure, and astonishment, the instant it is seen: its situation is about thirteen miles from the most western land in England, in the inmost recess of the Mount's Bay. This mountain, which is surrounded with the sea six hours out of twelve, is about 400 yards from the shores of Marazion. At its base it is upwards of a mile in circumference; and from the sand which lies around it, to the summit of a tower which crowns its apex,

the height is about 250 feet. At high water it appears, from its being insulated, and from that vast expanse of horizon which is seen in every direction, to be considerably diminished in its circumference; but even this variation adds much to the beauty and enchantment of the scene; and it then seems to be a mass of natural rocks and acclivities, partly clothed with verdure, and terminating in a point that is crowned with the triumphs of art. At low water, it may be easily approached over a kind of causeway formed of pebbles and shingle, and raised a little above the common bed of sand, across which it stretches.

On reaching the Mount, it assumes its real magnitude, and many of its rocks appears gigantic and terrible, from their extraordinary elevation. The general stratum consists of a hard granite, in which transparent quartz is the predominant substance.

Viewed from various directions, its appearance presents a diversity of aspects; in some places its ascent being nearly perpendicular, and in others of an easy and gentle acclivity. But although in themselves these rocks are completely craggy and barren, yet they furnish interstices and occasional plains, in which verdure is produced, sufficient to support about twenty sheep, and a vast number of rabbits, which from time immemorial have found a residence on the Mount. Of late years some plantations of fir have been introduced, which still tend to heighten the beauty of the scene, as they wave their branches over the gloomy rocks which they shade. Even a distant view of St. Michael's Mount excites ideas of solemn grandeur; but the effect is considerably heightened, when the spectator gradually ascends its craggy sides, and slowly winds his way to their summit, among pendant rocks and awful precipices, from which he

looks down on diminishing objects below, and catches the fire of enthusiasm, from a recollection of departed ages, and from a vast expanse of sea and land that becomes instantly exposed to his view. This celebrated Mount has at different times been distinguished by various names, its ancient Cornish appellation signifying its being formerly, a "hoar rock in the midst of woods." In the book of Landaff it is called *Dinsul*, a word which signifies a hill dedicated to the sun; or, if it is a contraction of *Dinaswhal*, it signifies a hill difficult of ascent. In the beginning of the sixth century, if not long before, it was called St. Michael's Mount: afterwards by the Saxons it was denominated *Mychelstow;* and according to Scawen, *St. Michael de magno Monte.*

"St. Michael's Mount," we are informed by Worcester, "was originally enclosed with a very thick wood, distant from the ocean six miles; the

Cornish name of it *Carreg Lúg en Kúg*." Worcester is the oldest writer who gives the signification of it, he informing us, that the Mount was formerly denominated *Le Hore Rok in the Wodd.*

When this hill was first dedicated to religious worship, can hardly be ascertained with certainty; there can be little doubt that it was very early, perhaps as soon as Christianity first gained a footing in Cornwall. At that early period, such hills and romantic situations were deemed congenial to sanctity, and quickly attracted the notice of such as wished to live retired from the world.—Hence, hermits and pilgrims of both sexes, renouncing the delicacies of life, retired among rocks, and took up their abode among hills difficult of access, where they became admired for their austerities, and honoured by novices and probationers, who were ardent to succeed them in their holy enterprizes;

especially as their habitations were dignified with miracles, which credulity was ever willing to allow, and ready to believe.

The pilgrims in those days, had a tradition, that these hills were occasionally visited by the inhabitants of the celestial regions; among the rest Michael the archangel was presumed to be very fond of perching among these rocks, and rendering himself visible to the credulous monks, who were ever ready to substitute imagination for fact:—The monks who first inhabited the Cornish Mount, laid claim to this angelic vision, and even pretended to shew the spot on which the angel sat, on an awful pile of rocks, that seemed most difficult of access, and which thenceforth obtained the honorable name of *Saint Michael's Mount*. It was from the circumstance of this supposed angelic visit, that the ancient Cornish name of this Mount, which designated its

situation was abandoned, and that of St. Michael became substituted in its stead. Even the chair has been preserved in the memorials of tradition; and in the building erected on the summit of the hill, a projecting stone, which is no other than the carcase of a stone-lantern, extends from the tower, over a horrid mass of rocks below; which is still viewed by credulity and ignorance, as the actual chair in which the archangel sat. To this supposed chair the fool-hardy and presumptuous still occasionally repair, under a full persuasion, that if a married woman has sufficient resolution to place herself in it, by a magic virtue which it possesses, it will invest her with the regalia of "*petticoat government:*" If a married man sits in it, he will receive ample powers for the management of his house.

The earliest transactions of a military nature that are recorded con-

cerning this Mount, took place while Richard I. was engaged in the holy wars:—It was then seized by Henry de la Pomeroy, who fortified the place in behalf of Richard's brother John, who was then contending for the crown of England. But on the release of Richard, Pomeroy so dreaded his vengeance, that he caused himself to be bled to death; after which the Mount surrendered to the Archbishop of Canterbury. From this time forward this place continued rather a school of Mars, than a temple of peace; for shortly after the overthrow of the party of Henry VI. at Barnet Field, John Earl of Oxford, who was one of the principals, reached this place by sea, and, with his followers, procured admission, disguised in the habits of pilgrims; but having gained an entrance, he threw off the vizor which he wore, mastered the garrison, seized the place, and having fully fortified himself, secured by his valour what he had won by his policy,

until some advantageous terms induced him to surrender. In one of these attacks Sir John Arundell was slain between Marazion and the Mount. In the reign of Henry VII. Lady Catharine Gorden, wife of Perkin Warbeck, took refuge here, until the disasters of her husband obliged her to submit to Lord Daubeney. During the Cornish rebellion in the reign of Edward VI. many families fled to the Mount, and there endeavoured to secure themselves from the vicissitudes which then distracted the country: but the Mount being besieged by the returning rebels, who took the plain at the bottom of the rock by assault at low water, they proceeded towards the summit, rolling before them trusses of hay to deaden the shot that were poured from the fortifications; being reduced through want of provisions, they soon surrendered to the insurgents. During the civil war the Mount was secured and strongly fortified by the king's adherents; but

they were reduced after an obstinate conflict, by the troops under Colonel Hammond. These commotions drove the peaceable inhabitants from its shores; so that for some time the Mount became nearly depopulated.

Sir John St. Aubyn, the father of the present Sir John, made many improvements on this rock, to whom the increase of buildings and inhabitants is to be attributed, who by rendering the pier sufficiently capacious to contain upwards of fifty small vessels, and to afford security to them and to the fishing boats, has induced the inhabitants of Marazion to erect cellars near the spot. The number of residences has since been augmented to upwards of seventy, which forms a small town composed of three short streets, and the inhabitants about 250; although at the beginning of the last century there was only one dwelling-house besides the fortress in the place.

The ascent to the summit of the Mount at present is by a steep and rugged passage fronting to the north, which about midway (in war time) is defended by a few cannon; and near the summit is the principal battery which protects the entrance of the bay. The apex of the rock is occupied by the remains of the ancient monastic buildings, which were considerably altered by the late proprietor, and have been much improved by the present possessor: the chapel, which is still unfinished, is of the Gothic order; from which, we may ascend by a narrow stone stair-case to the top of the tower, the prospect hence, is of the grandest description, and is perhaps as striking as any that can occur to 'mortal eye;' "the immense extent of sea," says Dr. Maton, "raises the most sublime emotions, the waves of the British, Irish, and Atlantic seas all roll within the compass of the sight;" whilst the eye is relieved from the uniform, though

imposing grandeur of so boundless an horizon, by wandering over a landscape, which Claude himself might have transfused on his canvass.

In levelling a very high platform some years since, in order to erect the altar, a low Gothic doorway was discovered, closed up with stone in the southern wall, which had been concealed by the raised platform:—the doorway being opened, a passage was found to descend, containing ten steps, which led to a vault of stone under the church, about nine feet long, seven feet broad, and nearly as many high; in this vault was found the skeleton of a very large man, without any remains of a coffin. This discovery gave rise to various conjectures; but the more rational concluded, that these were the remains of some wretched man, who for some crime had been condemned to die by hunger in this dungeon, and that he had literally undergone the penalty

of his sentence. "Great must have been that crime, or barbarous those days, that could have given to death so many horrors." The bones of the unhappy victim were taken up from their dark abode, in which they had been immured for unknown ages, and interred within the body of the church. At the same time upon taking up the old pavement, the fragment of an inscribed sepulchral stone of some Prior was taken up; there was also a grave stone not inscribed, which antiquaries have supposed to have covered the remains of Sir John Arundel of Terrice, knight, slain on the strand below, in the wars of York and Lancaster.

In the tower of this chapel are six sweet toned bells, which frequently ring when Sir John St. Aubyn is resident; at this time also choral service is performed, and on a calm day, the undulating sound of the bells, and the swelling notes of the

organ, as heard on the water, produce an effect which it is impossible to describe.

A spacious apartment near the chapel, now called the Chevy Chace Room, was formerly the refectory of the monastry. This is curiously ornamented with a very singular frieze, representing in stucco the various modes of hunting the wild bull, stag ostrich, fox, hare, and rabbit. At the upper end of this room are the royal arms, with the date of 1644, and at the opposite end the arms of the St. Aubyn family.

Formerly water was scarce here; for whatever virtue might be attributed to the magic wand of Cadoc in the fifth century, it is certain that the inhabitants had no other water than that which the clouds supplied. But about fifty years since, a well being cut through a very hard rock, a fine spring was found at the depth

of about thirty seven feet, in the immediate vicinity of a tin-lode. Tin-ore is said to be plentiful all over the Mount. Human bones have frequently been dug up in various places on this consecrated spot, wherever the soil was found deep enough for interment.

On the 1st of November 1755, (being the day of the great earthquake at Lisbon) about two o'clock in the afternoon, a most extraordinary phenomenon was observed at St. Michael's Mount, during a dead calm. After the sea had ebbed about half an hour, it rose suddenly six feet in height, retired again in ten minutes, and this periodical flux and reflux continued every ten minutes for two hours and half, which caused the vessels and boats, that lay at the pier-head to whirl about in a strange manner.

In June 1814, a dinner was given to ninety-three persons at this Mount,

and Mr. Robert James, aged 93, presided at the table.

The remains of several ancient fortifications are to be found on the road leading to the castle; and to the mineralogist, the antiquary, the historian, the poet, and the painter, St. Michael's Mount will ever be an object of particular interest, and real satisfaction,

In coming from the Mount to Marazion, we pass a large mass of *Grawacke*, known by the name of the *Chapel Rock*, on which tradition reports a chapel to have once stood, dedicated to the Virgin Mary; but no vestige of it has been discernible within the memory of man: The rock on which this chapel must have stood, is about 150 yards in circumference, but the level part of it, on which alone the building could have been erected, is about 45 feet long, and 18 or 20 feet broad. Of the use to which the chapel was applied, the reports of

tradition are not uniform. According to one account, it was erected purposely for the inhabitants of the town of Marazion; but according to another, and more prevalent account, it was appropriated to the use of pilgrims, who came to visit the priory on the Mount, but who were compelled to pass through some initiatory rites in this chapel, before they ascended the sacred hill. This rock, though now about 100 yards from the main land, is said to have been contiguous with it.

## MARAZION or MARKET-JEW.

This corporate and market town is in the parish of St. Hillary, standing on the sea shore, on the eastern side of the Bay, and is well sheltered from cold winds by a considerable elevation of land to the north, still however, as it is exposed to the

south-west, it is far less eligible as a place of residence for invalids, than Penzance. The town contains about 1100 inhabitants; its principal support, if not its origin, according to some authors, was derived from the resort of pilgrims, and other religious devotees, to the neighbouring sacred edifice on St. Michaels Mount; but its name, indisputably, was derived from the *Jews*, who traded here several centuries ago, and held an annual *Market* for selling various commodities, and purchasing tin and other merchandize in return.

By the charter of Queen Elizabeth, the government of this town is vested in a mayor, eight aldermen, and twelve capital burgesses, with a power to hold a weekly market, and two annual fairs. In the preamble to this charter it is stated, "that Marghaisewe was a trading borough town of great antiquity, and that it suffered considerably dilapidation in the days

of Edward VI. when a number of rebellious people entered and took possession of the town, and laid many of the buildings in ruin." From this disaster the town never fully recovered; and from the growing influence of Penzance, the suppression of the priory, and the loss of the pilgrims from whom it derived its principal importance, its dignity gradually declined, until Marazion became as it now appears.

It has been asserted on good authority, that under this charter of Elizabeth, this town formerly sent members to parliament; and Dr. Borlase in his MSS. mentions Thomas Westlake and Richard Mills, Esqrs. as two members who were actually returned for Marazion in the year 1658; but it does not appear that they ever took their seats. It is also probable from some original letters which passed between the sheriff of Cornwall and the mayor of this borough, during the

protectorate of Cromwell, that the inhabitants were solicitous to recover their long neglected rights, but their efforts proved ineffectual.

Hals and Tonkin, adverting to the fact of which Leland speaks of Market-jew being "*burnid a Gallis*," assert "that a party of French soldiers landed from a fleet then cruising in the channel, took the town and actually set it on fire; but they found themselves opposed by Carminow or Erisey, at the head of a powerful party, who compelled them to retreat to their ships."—But they do not mention the date when this calamity occurred.

From Tonkin's MSS. it appears, that "the inhabitants of Market-jew have a tradition, that the greatest part of their houses (in which there is fine old carved work) were built with oak-trees that grew between the Mount and Newlyn."—He also says

"that off the Long-Rock (between the Mount and Penzance) may be seen in a clear day, about 20 feet under water, a firm wall running out directly to the south, and that for a long way; this (they say) was the wall of the park there."

The trade of this town at present consists chiefly in the pilchard fishery, and the importation of corn, flour, timber, coals, and iron for the use of the inhabitants and the neighbouring mines. The parish church is about two miles distant from this place, but for the accommodation of the inhabitants, a chapel of ease has long been established in the town, in which divine service is regularly performed by a lecturer, whose salary is defrayed by private contributions. There are also three meeting houses in this place, belonging to the Quakers, Methodists, and Baptists.

On the east of Marazion, many yards of the cliff have been washed

away, within the last forty years, for nearly half a mile in length; the soil of the cliff being soft, and the spring tides pressing against it with considerable violence. About eighty or ninety years since, a spring tide was driven by a dreadful hurricane with such violence against the town, as to beat down a whole row of houses, and to carry them, with their foundations into the sea.

A vast number of hazel-boughs with perfect nuts adhering to them, have been found between Mount and Penzance, below the natural bed of soil:—And about half-way between Marazion and Chyandour, about 300 yards below high-water mark, were seen a few years ago, by Mr. Giddy of Penzance, upon an extraordinary recession of the tide, several stumps of trees in their native soil, with the roots shooting out from them, and with their stems apparently cut off: These trees had been felled, under

an apprehension of the coming encroachment; while the whole trees had been either surprised or neglected.

The level green over which the road from Marazion to Penzance passes, is evidently nothing more than the surface of a continued bar of sand, behind which, towards the land, lies a large tract of marshy ground, over which the tide, no doubt, formerly flowed. Some years since, Mr. R. Moyle of Marazion, undertook to rescue a portion of this bog from its unprofitable condition; and by his spirited exertions, he so far succeeded, as to bring about seventy acres into useful land, from which both corn and potatoes have beeen produced in several crops. For this noble and successful effort, he received from the Society for the promotion of arts, manufactures, and commerce, a gold medal; and a handsome premium from the Agricultural Board.—The land is now getting fast into decay.

On cutting open the drains through this unprofitable bog, the labourers discovered an earthen pot, in which they found nearly a thousand Roman copper coins; many of which were much corroded by the salt water, to which they have been exposed for ages; but the impressions on several, were sufficiently legible to furnish evidence, that they were the emperors who lived between the years 260 and 350.

Very great exertions are now carrying on by Messrs Bolitho, on the western part of this green, and the water being already drained, there is every reason to believe, they will be well rewarded for the trouble they have taken, as they are likely to gain about an hundered acres of useful land.

On the right as you pass over this green from Marazion to Penzance, on an elevated spot, appears *Ludgvan*

*Church*, that forms so prominent a feature on the shores of this Bay, which will be visited with respect by the Antiquary when he learns that it contains the mortal remains of Dr. Borlase, the venerable and learned author of the Natural History and Antiquities of Cornwall; from the latin inscription on his tomb it appears that he was 52 years rector of this parish, also forty years vicar of his native parish, St. Just: and that he died in the 77th year of his age, universally beloved and respected by all who knew him.

*Gulval Church* also forms a most interesting feature on the shores of the Bay, being situated at the bottom of a gently declining hill, and beautifully surrounded with trees; in it there is to be seen a monument to the memory of Arthur Harris Esq. who was governor of the Mount in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, which will be found an object of curiosity,

as it marks the literary conceit and quaintness of those days. It is worthy of notice, that in this parish, (and in Madron) two crops of potatoes are produced in the season, through the mildness of the climate. The early sort is planted for the first crop, which is got off time enough for the next to come to maturity before the winter. They plant the kidney potatoe about Christmas, or a few weeks before it, which they draw in May, and plant in the same ground the apple potatoe. A gentleman of the neigbourhood, had by this management, in the first crop, from one acre, 100 Cornish bushels of twenty-four gallons each; and in the second crop, 200 bushels; so that from one Cornish acre, which is one acre and one fifth, statute measure, he produced 900 Winchester bushels of potatoes in one year. The cultivation of this valuable root upon the largest scale is strongly recommended, and the use of ore-weed as an excellent manure for them.

At Chyandour there is a smelting-house for tin, where also a very extensive trade is carried on by Messrs. Bolitho, to whom the neighbourhood are much indebted for the very great improvements they have made in the embellishments of the scenery.

## PENZANCE.

This is a corporate and market town, and the most westerly one in the kingdom, being only ten miles from the Land's End.

The town is pleasantly situated on the north-west side of the Bay, and from the temperature of the atmosphere, the mildness of the seasons, the beauty of the prospect, and the exhiliarating purity of the gentle breezes which play upon the bosom of the waters, and scatter health upon the shores, have conferred on Pen-

zance and its vicinity, a degree of celebrity, which few persons who have visited this neighbourhood, will think injudiciously bestowed: Perhaps without any exception, this town can boast of a warmer climate than any other in England; this circumstance, added to the enlivening prospects with which it is encircled, renders this spot singularly inviting to invalids. The rains indeed which frequently fall, may operate to its disadvantage, in the estimation of those who wish constantly to walk abroad; but these rains are rather inconvenient than pernicious, as perhaps neither Italy nor the south of France can boast a more salubrious atmosphere.

To this place many valetudinarians annually resort, and the benefits they receive, leave them in general but little reason to regret their journeys. It is not without sufficient reason that Penzance has been denominated the

*Montpelier* of England. Its ancient name was Buriton; its present appellation signifies, in Cornish, *the Holy Headland*. It is one of the stannary, or coining towns, and consists of six principal streets, intersecting each other, the principal one having the road from Marazion to the Land's End passing through it. There are also several rows of elegant houses, namely, the Parade, North Parade, Regent Terrace, Wellington Terrace, Park Corner, &c. &c. and in the vicinity of the town are several pleasant walks through shady dingles and over swelling hills, which open to the view the numerous genteel residences that decorate the adjacent country.

The trade of Penzance consists chiefly in timber, hemp, iron, coals, salt, flour, fruit, wine, spirits, hides, groceries, cloths, linens, and every other kind of merchandise imported; and in tin, copper, fish, oil, potatoes, &c. &c. that are exported.

Penzance is one of those towns to which the tinners bring their tin to be "coined," as it is called; that is, to be assayed, and licenced by the officers of the Dutchy, who take off a piece from each block, and if they find it sufficiently pure, stamp it with the Duke's Arms; for every hundred weight of tin so stamped, he receives four shillings; the annual revenue is about 10,000*l.*

In the town and its vicinity there are extensive woollen manufactories, also a paper mill, and coarse earthenware potteries. The pilchard fishery is carried on in this town and neighbourhood to a great extent: Tin is also formed into bars for the Mediterranean trade, and ingots for the East Indies, at Penzance.

The market-days are Thursdays and Saturdays, and the market for goodness, variety, and cheapness of its commodities, is certainly not to

be equalled by any other in Great Britain; to the great quantity of salt mixed with the food of the hog, is to be attributed the delicacy and richness of the Pork, whilst owing to the rich pasturage, the heifer beef is superior, beyond all comparison, to the Scotch; it is worthy also of notice, that during the winter, the market is filled with the greatest variety of wild fowl, as Woodcocks, Snipes, &c. &c. which may be purchased for a few pence; although every description of fish in season, as Red Mullet, John Dory, Turbot, Sole, Mackarel, &c. is offered for sale every day by the Newlyn fish-women, whose delicate complexions, and the vivacity and brilliancy of whose jet black eyes, darting their rays from beneath the shade of large beaver hats, fascinate the traveller.

The great variety of shipping, ships of war, merchantmen, and fishing boats, constantly lying in Mount's

Bay, forms a very interesting and delightful scene.

This town originally rose from a few fishermen settling near the present quay, and building for themselves a chapel dedicated to St. Anthony, that universal patron of fishermen. This chapel continued until within these few years, when it was rebuilt into a fish cellar:—it was only small however, but it had a statue of its Saint in a niche. Tradition has preserved the name of the saint, and antiquarianism has saved the statute of him; it is merely a bust made of alabaster. Thus begun, the town extended up the side of the hill, from the site of the pier to the ground now occupied by the church. When it had acquired some degree of importance, a fort was built by one of the family of Tyes, in whose manor of Alwarton the town now stands.

The present chapel, which is now ornamented with a small white-washed

spire, is dedicated to St. Mary. This has been used as a chapel from time immemorial. It was enlarged in 1617, and consecrated in 1680. The font bears date 1668, the alms-box 1612; and a memorial in a pew is dated 1574. In 1680 it was endowed by John Tremenheere, Esq. with lands now let at £20 per annum; a cemetry was also enclosed and consecrated, and the limits of the town were defined to be the limits of the chapelry. The endowment has since been twice augmented by Queen Anne's bounty. Marriages were solemnized in this chapel prior to the marriage act; but since that has passed, Madern church claims this exclusive privilege. Penzance has its own vestry, and maintains its own poor. It appears from the registers of the see of Exeter, that there were chapels here dedicated to St. Raphael and St. Gabriel. Penzance was first incorporated in 1614; which charter was confirmed by Charles II. This corporation con-

sists of a mayor, recorder, eight aldermen, and twelve assistants.

Nothing can be more evident, than that the prophetic tales which imposition invents, which ignorance propogates, and which credulity believes, are sometimes productive of calamitous effects and consequences. From time immemorial a prediction had prevailed in the old Cornish language, that a period would arrive when "some strangers should land on the rock of Merlin, who should burn Paul's church, Penzance, and Newlyn." Of the actual accomplishment of this prediction Carew gives the following account:—"On the 23d of July, 1595, a small squadron of Spanish gallies presented themselves upon the coast in a menacing attitude, near Mousehole, where they landed about 200 men, and began their devastations, by setting fire to some scattering houses, the church of Paul and then Mousehole itself. Finding little or

no resistance, they proceeded to Newlyn, and from thence to Penzance. Sir Francis Godolphin endeavoured to inspire the inhabitants with courage to repel these assailants; but they were so fascinated with the ancient prophecy, that they fled in all directions; supposing that it was useless to contend with the destiny that had been predicted for ages. A few only stood by Sir Francis; but the number was so inconsiderable that he was obliged to abandon the town to the enemy: the Spaniards availing themselves of this desertion, set it on fire in different places, as they had set Newlyn on fire before, and then returned on board their galleys, intending to renew the flames on the ensuing day:—But the Cornish having recovered from their panic, and assembled in great numbers on the beach, so annoyed the Spaniards with their bullets and arrows, that they drew their gallies farther off, and availing themselves of a favoura-

ble breeze, put to sea and escaped." It is worthy of remark, that when the Spaniards first got on shore, they actually landed on a rock called Merlin. "These," says Camden, "were the only Spaniards that ever landed in England as enemies." This invasion is the only memorable event that occurs in the history of Penzance.

The pier was erected at the expense of the corporation, unassisted by any parliamentary grant, about forty-seven years ago. Within the last seven years it has received considerable improvements; whether from jealousy of what might be the effect on the trade in Mount's Bay in consequence of the new harbour building at Porthleven, or from a conviction of the absolute necessity for extending protection to vessels taking shelter therein, is not generally known: but whatever might be the motive, they both afford to the coasting trade several important advantages. The pier has been length-

ened 150 feet, on which a light is erected, and used at night from half flood to half ebb, and the dangerous rocks in the entrance removed. The expences incurred by these improvements are to be paid by a new tariff, established by an act passed in the year 1817. This pier is now more than 600 feet long, being the largest in Cornwall.

About a mile from this pier lies a dangerous rock called the *Gear*, which is not visible after half flood tide:—Upon this rock has lately been erected a pole, which will be a good mark by day, for vessels entering the harbour.

The town was protected during the war by a small fort; but it is too deeply embayed to tempt even a privateer to risk paying it a visit, lest the wind shifting, should prevent her retreat.

A packet sails every Friday, and returns the Tuesday, from hence to the Scilly Islands, a distance of about fourteen leagues, which with a fair wind is generally accomplished in six hours; but with contrary winds, it has sometimes exceeded two days.

The shores of Penzance presented, some few years since, an object of bold adventure to the undertakers, and of dreadful curiosity to the numerous visitors who ventured to inspect it, in the *Wherry Mine*.—Its situation was within the reach of the tide; and the ground, though uncovered at low water. was inundated with several feet twice in twenty-four hours. "Imagine," says Dr. Maton, the descent into the mine through the sea; the miners working at the depth of seventeen fathoms below the waves; the rod of the steam-engine extending from the shore to the shaft, a distance of nearly one hundred and twenty fathoms; and a great number of men

momentarily menaced with an inundation of the sea, which continually drains through the roof of the mine, and roars loud enough to be distinctly heard in it." The adventurers of this mine were induced to sink a shaft in this place, through the representations of an old miner, who predicted the acquisition of much riches, which were actually found. It consisted in valuable tin stuff and cobalt. But after some time, the dangerous situation of the shaft, the injuries occasioned by storms and high tides, and the declining state of the lode, induced the adventurers to abandon the workings altogether, in 1798.

Deeply embayed as Penzance is, instances have occurred, when the wind and waves acting in conjunction, overcome every obstacle, and bid defiance to resistance. An awful instance of this fact occurred on the night of Sunday, January 19th 1817.

The storm during the night, increasing to a hurricane, drove the waves with such violence, as to break over the pier above the mast heads of the vessels within, and to bear down every thing before their united fury. One vessel was sunk in the pier, another sunk and went to pieces, a third filled with water, and a fourth drove from her moorings and went on shore. Two of the four pillars on which it was intended to erect a light, were washed down, and several of the foundation stones of the pier were removed. It being a spring tide the water rose an unusal height; the green between Penzance and Newlyn was torn up, and the soil in several places washed away. The dry dock at Penzance was much injured; and, with timber carried off by the waves, the damage sustained by Mr. Mathews, the proprietor, exceeded 500*l*. On the eastern side of the town, the space between Penzance and Marazion presented a scene of

devastation; in some places the turnpike road was buried with sand, and in others it was broken up by the violence of the waves; the water making a breach over it, and being in different places from three to five feet deep. At Chyandour the lower parts of the houses were inundated; part of the bridge was washed away; and in the cellar of an innkeeper there, a number of casks of beer floated, and some of them were dashed to pieces by being driven against each other. At Newlyn and Mousehole on the west, and at Marazion on the east, the effects were dreadfully felt: at this latter place, and at the Mount much damage was done: some premises were severely injured; the road between Marazion and the Mount was torn from the foundations; and stones upwards of a ton weight, though cramped together with massy iron, were severed and removed from their positions. From Plymouth to the Land's End, scarcely a port or cove

escaped the devastations of this tempest; and in many places its effects will be transmitted down to future generations.

A Geological Society was instituted here, in February 1814, on the suggestion of John Ayrton Paris, M. D. late of this town; Lord de Dunstanville, and the Earl of Yarmouth, are the vice-patrons; and Davies Gilbert Esq. M. P. for Bodmin, is president; the King having kindly taken the society under his protection, as its patron, it is now denominated the *Royal Geological Society of Cornwall;* and reckons amongst its officers and members, many individuals of the first rank and science in the kingdom. The cabinet of minerals possesses the most complete series of specimens to be found in the county, and will be viewed by the mineralogist with sensations of respect and esteem The *alloyed tamping bar*, *shifting cartridge*, and *copper neele*, were introduced into

the mines of Cornwall by this society; its object being to prevent those accidents which so frequently happen to miners, in blasting rocks with gunpowder; and has answered the purpose beyond the most sanguine expectations, as the safety instruments cannot strike fire; this alone has been the means of saving hundreds of miners from an untimely grave, or accidents worse than death. The county of Cornwall being particularly favorable to the objects of this institution, the society promises fair to advance science, and produce much practical benefit.

The Penwith Agricultural Society holds its meetings, and distributes its rewards in this town.

In 1770, the Ladies' Book-Club was formed at Penzance: this was soon followed by the Gentlemen's, and that by many others, tending to amusement and instruction.

In the year 1818, was formed the Public Library in this Town, Sir Rose Price Bart. is president, and it contains upwards of one hundred members, ladies and gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood.

In 1809, a Public Dispensary was instituted by the inhabitants at a general meeting, and a house taken for that purpose; the object of this humane institution is to afford advice and medicine to the industrious but afflicted poor: a physician and surgeons attend here every Tuesday and Friday at twelve o'clock, and the apothecary at the same time, every day, with the exception of Sundays: By this society a reward of a guinea is given to any individual or boat's crew, who can speedily rescue from the water, the body of a person recently fallen into it; and a further reward of two guineas more, if happily the apparently drowned person can be restored to life. This institu-

tion is supported by voluntary contributions.

There is also in this town, a Humane Society; a School of Industry for poor female children; with several other charitable institutions: also, branches of the Methodist, Baptist, and London Missionary Societies; with a branch of the Cornwall Auxiliary Bible Society, Ladies' Bible Society, &c. &c.

Penzance has a Grammar-School, supported by the town and corporation; and one of Mr. Buller's schools, endowed from the long annuities, was in this town.

Hot and cold sea-water bathing may now be enjoyed in perfection at Penzance, where Baths have been erected; and we trust the time is not far distant, when this place will become a favorite resort of Hygeia, and will supersede those numerous *watering* places, which derive their fame

alone from the caprice of fashion, or popular prejudice, and which have nothing to recommend them, but the eulogiums of a herd of visitants who cannot possibly appreciate their peculiar claims to merit.—In enumerating the very many advantages this situation holds out to invalids, we must not forget to mention the numerous Chalybeate springs which rise in this neighbourhood, one of these is situated at Castle Horneck, and from the analysis of it by a medical gentleman, it appears likely to become a medicinal agent of considerable energy.

Besides the established church, Penzance has a great variety of places for religious worship. In the year 1790, the Weslyan Methodist chapel was erected, in which divine service was performed until the year 1814, when a new one was built, which is the most elegant and capacious meeting house the county of Cornwall

can afford. In 1807, a new Independent chapel was built, in which divine service is still carried on. The Baptist chapel was built in 1789, and enlarged in 1818, at a considerable expence. The friends commonly called Quakers, had a chapel erected in this town as early as 1650, their present chapel was built in 1777, in which divine service is performed. The Jews have a synagogue, which was built in 1807; but prior to this, they had one that was erected in 1768. The Roman Catholics in this place not being very numerous, they have no place of worship.

In 1779, was born at Penzance, Sir Humphrey Davey, a character that would reflect honour on any age or any county. He was descended from an ancient and respectable family. The earlier part of his education was received under Dr. Cardew, at Truro, which he left in a few years to acquire the profession of a surgeon

and apothecary, under a medical gentleman at Penzance. Here his genius for chemistry first displayed itself, in varying the experiments of the most clebrated pneumatic chemists, and adapting them to vegetables, exclusively produced on the sea shore. These were communicated to Dr. Beddoes, who, sensible of Mr. Davey's merit, engaged his assistance at a medical establishment, just then beginning at Bristol. Mr. Davey introduced himself to the public by a treatise "On the nature and relation of light and heat." The credit justly acquired by this work, and by subsequent essays, added to his successful delivery of a course of lectures at Clifton, procured for him the notice of the Royal Institution in London, where he now holds the situation of chemical lecturer, and by his lectures and experiments contributes largely to the natural information on subjects before unknown, or imperfectly considered. Some of his discoveries are

of the most wonderful nature, and have afforded a greater insight into the mysteries of nature than those of any individual who has preceded him. Mr. Davey has obtained the praise and esteem of all the foreign societies, as well as of his own country; and the National Institute at Paris gave him their prize of 3,000 livres, for his paper on chemical affinities. Early in 1812, he received the honour of knighthood from his royal highness the Prince Regent; and he still seduously employs himself in the prosecution of his lectures, experiments, and discoveries. By his vigorous intellect and scientific talents, Sir Humphrey has not only exalted himself in the scale of public reputation, as a chemist, but he has shone also as a poet:—His interesting poem, called "Mount's Bay," possesses considerable merit, and pages of it have been frequently quoted in works descriptive of the scenery in the neighbourhood.

It should also be remembered that Penzance was the early residence of Admiral Lord Exmouth.

In taking up the stone floor of an old house near the Quay, in October 1813, the workmen discovered a human skeleton, which, apparently, had lain there a considerable time. The premises were anciently occupied as a public house, and some aged people recollected the circumstance of a sailor who was in the habit of frequenting it, and who had in his possession a plenty of money, being suddenly missed, conjectures ran that he was murdered; but no proof being produced to that effect, the subject and enquiry dropped. This discovery of the skeleton now puts the melancholy reflection beyond a doubt, and the perpetrators of the horrid deed have long since answered for their cruelty before the Supreme Judge of all human actions, whether open or concealed. It is remarkable that

this dwelling had been long unoccupied, from a report of its being haunted.

In July 1757, a monk or angel-fish was taken at Penzance, in a trammel-net, whose nature appeared to be between the the dog-fish and the ray. The belly was white, and the back of a dusky or brownish hue.

In no part of Cornwall is Midsummer celebrated with more hilarity than at Penzance and its neighbourhood; for on the 23d of June, the young people are all alert in the preparations for their favourite festival. No sooner does the tardy sun withdraw himself from the horizon, than the young men begin to assemble in several parts of the town, drawing after them trees, and branches of wood and furze; all which had been accumulating week after week, from the beginning of May. Tar-barrels are presently erected on tall poles, in the market-place, on the quay, and

in all of the principal streets; while pretty female children trip up and down in their best frocks, decorated with garlands, and hailing the Midsummer-eve as the vigil of St. John. The joyful moment arrives! the torches make their appearance! the heaped-up wood is on fire! the tar-barrels send up their intense flame! the ladies and gentlemen parade the streets, walk in the fields, or on the terraces that command the bay; thence they behold the fishing towns, farms, and villas, vieing with each other in the number and splendour of their bonfires: the torches quickly moving along the shore, are reflected from the tide; and the spectacle, though of the cheerful kind participates of the grand. In the mean time rockets, crackers, squibs, &c. resound through every street; and the screams of the ladies, on their return from the shew, and their precipitate flight into the first passage, shop, or house, that happens to be open, heighten

the colouring and diversion of the night. Then comes the finale; no sooner are torches burnt out, than the inhabitants of the quay-quarter, (a great multitude), male and female young, middle-aged, and old, virtuous and vicious, sober and drunk, take hands, and forming a long string, run violently through every street, lane, and alley, crying 'an eye! an eye! an eye!' At last they stop suddenly, and an eye to this enormous needle being opened by the last two in the string, (whose clasped hands are elevated and arched) the thread of populace run under and through; and continue to repeat the same, till weariness dissolves the union, and sends them home to bed; which is never till near the hour of midnight. Next day, (Midsummer day) the custom is, for the country people to come to Penzance in their best clothes, about four or five o'clock in the afternoon; when they repair to the quay and take a short trip on the

water; on which occasion a number of boats are employed, most of which have music on board:—after one cargo is dismissed, another is taken in; and till nine or ten o'clock at night, the bay exhibits a pleasant scene of sloops, sailing-boats, rowing-boats, sea-sickness, laughter, quarrelling, drum-beating, horn-blowing, &c. &c. On the shore there is a kind of wake or fair, in which fruit and confectionary are sold, and the public-houses are thronged with drinkers and dancers. Such is Midsummer in this part of Cornwall; and on the eve of the feast of St. Peter, which follows so closely upon it, the same things are acted over again.

The town of Penzance is well defended from the fury of atlantic storms, it is large and populous, containing about 4200 inhabitants, and is 283 miles from London, 109 from Exeter, and 27 from Truro.

The road from Penzance to Newlyn is over a level green about a mile in length, passing through the village of STREET-AN-NOWAN, which contains about 300 inhabitants; in it there is a respectable meeting-house belonging to the Methodists, where divine service is regularly performed; there is also in this village, a Sunday School for poor children.

## NEWLYN.

This is a large fishing village in the parish of Paul, situate near the western shores of the Bay, and for population and extent may be reckoned equal to many towns, it consists of one principal street, nearly half a mile in length, with three or four small streets branching from it.

In this village there is a small, but commodious pier, capable of con-

taining vessels of one hundred tons burthen; but is chiefly employed by the numerous fishing boats belonging to the place, which exceeds four hundred in number.

In no part of Cornwall are the fisheries carried on to a greater extent, than in this village, and the neighbouring one of Mousehole; and here it will not be improper to give an account of the manner of conducting them, beginning with the pilchard, which is the principal: preparations for which are generally commenced about the end of July, at which time the pilchards are expected to pay their annual visit. They make their appearance chiefly in the evenings; so that the boats rarely go to sea before four o'clock, or continue longer than ten. Sometimes they again go out early in the morning, and occasionally take fish about the rising of the sun. The boats, scattered at a little distance from each other, wait

those indications of a shoal, with which the men are well acquainted. These are, the jumping of some of the pilchards above the surface of the water; the ascent of bubbles from the bottom, and a particular hue of redness which the water acquires when the shoal is large. After having ascertained the direction in which the shoal is moving, they proceed to enclose them in the large net in the following manner:—The end of the net being thrown over board, the charge of which is committed to the *follower*, to prevent it from being dragged away, the seine-boat is rowed gently by some of the men, while others cast the net overboard. They always take a circular course.; and their first care is to secure with the net that part to which the fish were swimming; and finally so to carry the net around them, that they shall be hemmed in on every side. The whole time considered necessary for two strong men to throw the net overboard, is from four to six.

minutes. The net immediately spreads itself, the corks on one edge rendering it buoyant, and the leads on the other causing it to sink to the bottom; for if the depth of the water exceeds the width of the seine, there is little or no probability of securing any fish, however large the shoal may be. As the circle which they take in throwing the seine into the water, is generally larger than the net can compass, its two extremities are at a distance from each other when all is in the water. Ropes therefore are carried out from each end, which cross each other, by which the men on board the two large boats warp them together until they are brought in contact. When this is done, the two extremities, (if the shoal is thought to be large) are lifted from the bottom and laced together with the utmost expedition. While this is doing, every method is adopted to agitate the water, and drive back the body of fish from this only aperture through which they can

possible escape. This being done, the fish remain within an enclosure, the seine forming a circle round them, extending from the surface to the bottom of the sea. To secure the seine in this position, if they find it necessary from the probable quantity of fish enclosed to let it remain in the water, grapnels are carried out at some distance on every side, and thrown to the bottom; the ropes from which are fastened to the rope at the upper edge of the net;—these grapnels preserve the seine in its circular position against the influence of the tides, and the changes of the weather. The shoals of fish vary from one hundred to two thousand hogsheads; and however doubtful it may appear to a perfect stranger, it must be obvious to every reflecting mind, that following the process thus described, there can be no more difficulty or labour to enclose two thousand hogsheads than five, as the same work must be accomplished in either case,

except that of lacing the seine together and securing it with grapnels, which, with small shoals is unnecessary. It has been found by experience, that a large shoal is more easily secured than a small one, as such large bodies move with less rapidity.

The stop-seine being thus lodged in the water and made secure, the tuck-seine is carried within the enclosure. This seine is made like the former, only it is not so long, but it is wider in the middle. It is then thrown around nearly parallel with the former; but being within the confines, less care is necessary, than was before observed. Being carried round the fish, the foot-rope is drawn with its leads along the bottom, and afterwards raised in a gradual manner to the surface of the water; so that the fish lie in an enormous bag of net; this net is then gathered up round them, until they are drawn to the surface of the water; when the two

large boats are laden, and the remaining part is turned back into the large enclosure. The boats then proceed to the shore, were women are waiting to receive them into the cellar for curing.

Another method of taking pilchards is with nets having larger meshes, in which the fish get entangled. These driving nets, as they are termed, are drawn after their respective boats, fastened only at one end, through which the pilchard is arrested as it attempts to pass. These boats and nets are always at a considerable distance from the shore, lest by approaching too near they should disperse the shoals the seines are waiting to take. The quantity thus taken is very small; but the pilchards are remarkably fine, and the expence of the adventure is of little importance.

The pilchards being brought into the cellars, are laid down individually

in layers, first on the floor, which is gently inclined, that the oil issuing from the bulk may find its way into a receptacle placed for the purpose. The quantity of salt allowed by government for each hogshead is five bushels, each weighing eighty-four pounds. For this salt, which is free of duty, a bond must be given by the fish-curers. The time allowed by the fish-curers for their pilchards to lie in bulk, is sometimes regulated by the wishes of the merchant, who is always ready to avail himself of the foreign markets. The customary time is four weeks, and from thence varying to five or six: but no established rule prevails. Government commands thirty-three days.

The fish taken from the bulk are carried to large troughs, in which they are washed, and completely cleansed from the salt, filth, and coagulated oil, which they had acquired while lying in bulk, They are then

laid in loose casks in much the same manner as when they were in the bulk, with this variation, that they partake of the circular form of the barrel. After being pressed and filled up again, the barrels are then headed up, branded with the curer's name, and exported as occasion may require,

Pilchards that are caught early and are fat, have generally been thought to yield one hogshead of oil from ten hogsheads of fish. But it frequently happens that double this quantity will not yield more. The oil varies in price, from £20 to £28 per ton. The common price of pilchards may be estimated at about £3. 3*s*. per hogshead. The skimmings which float on the water in which the pilchards are washed when taken from the bulks, is called garbage, and is sold to the soap-boilers at fifteen-pence per gallon. The dregs which remain in the oil reservoir, are sold to the curriers at about

sixteen-pence per gallon on an average; but in scarce seasons it is worth more.

Few things are more precarious than the adventurers in the pilchard fisheries. The first outfit of a seine, with its boats, oars, sails, ropes, nets, and a quantity of salt sufficient to cure 500 hogsheads of fish, if purchased new, cannot be estimated at less than £1000. On this coast, an average year of one seine may be estimated at 250 or 300 hogsheads; but it frequently happens that many seines scarcely take a single fish. The preparations for the water consist of three boats, two large ones and a small one: each large boat contains seven men, and in the small one are the master, another man, and two boys. The *seine boat* and the *follower* are names by which the two large boats are distinguished; and the small one is called the *lurker*.

To meet the general uncertainty of the pilchard fisheries, government, in addition to the salt duty free, has granted a bounty of 8*s*. 6*d*. on every hogshead of fish actually exported to a foreign market.

During the late war with France, the Italian ports being shut against us, induced the adventurers and merchants to explore a new market. This they found among the planters in the West Indies, who have occasionally purchased great quantities for the support of their slaves. The length of the voyage, and the heat of the climate, have however rendered some expensive precautions necessary. Instead of being closely pressed, and packed in loose barrels, it has been found necessary to carry them to market in tight casks filled with pickle. In some cases this adventure has been successful; but as a permanent market the consumption is not equal to the supply which the

county can afford The return of peace has re-opened the markets in the Mediterranean; and from the demands which have been made, the intercourse promises to be again established in all its former prosperity.

Besides pilchards, mackarel and herrings make their periodical appearance in immense shoals. Mackarel are taken in large nets called *drift-nets*, which are of various lengths, from 100 to 1000 fathoms, and about ten fathoms deep. These nets are cast, or *shot*, from the boats, at the ebbing or flowing of the tide, and allowed to drift with the stream; the bottom of the net being kept down by weights, and the top part supported by corks. The fish are caught by being entangled in the meshes, but their flavour is impaired, and the fish are often partially injured from the struggles which they make to disengage themselves, and the length of time which elapses before they can

expire in their own element. From April to September, and sometimes later, the mackarel rarely ever forsakes the Cornish coasts; the place of their principal resort is this neighbourhood, and when fresh it is held in universal estimation. From this neighbourhood, the London, Bristol, Exeter, and Plymouth markets, are supplied with fresh mackarel; and in the western parts of this county, the vast numbers that are salted, form in winter, among the lower and middling orders of society, one of the necessaries of life.

This coast abounds with turbot, dories, mullet, cod, ling, conger, hake, haddock, pullock, whiting, sole, plaice, gurnet, bream, cray-fish, crab, &c. &c. the greater part of which are caught with hook and line.

In Newlyn there is a small market, held on Saturdays, chiefly for butcher's meat, but the principal part of

the inhabitants having business to Penzance, they purchase their commodities there.

In this village there are meeting-houses belonging to the Baptists and Independents, in which divine service is regularly performed.

Newlyn contains about 900 inhabitants, the greater part of which are employed in the fisheries.

On the road from hence to the village of Mousehole, which is about a mile distant, we pass a platform, which during the late war, was a *battery*, forming a great security to the Bay, from enemy's ships, or privateers, should any of them be induced to visit any part of it. Adjoining to this battery stands a furnace for the purpose of making shot red hot. During the war, this battery was governed by a small party of the royal artillery.

## MOUSEHOLE.

This large and popolous village is also situated in the parish of Paul; and was formerly a market-town, and place of considerable trade, but was burnt by the Spaniards in the year 1595, with Newlyn, and the greater part of Paul church. From this disaster Mousehole never recovered.

At Mousehole was formerly a chapel of ease, which also served as a sea-mark; but it was destroyed by the encroachment of the ocean before the year 1414. The dried ling of Mousehole are esteemed as a very superior fish.

This village is rendered notable by antiquaries as having been the residence of old *Dolly Pentreath*, the last woman known to speak the Cornish language:—In the former period of her life she supported herself by sel-

ling fish, and was well known in the market of Penzance, where at twelve years of age, she sold her wares in the Cornish language, In the year 1768, she was visited by the Honorable Daines Barrington, whose report, that he had met with a woman in this county able to converse in the vernacular tongue, not meeting with that degree of credit to which its accuracy was entitled, occasioned him to make further enquiries concerning her; but this was not till several years afterwards, when he found (1773) that she was still living, and in tolerable health, though in her eighty-seventh year: she was then maintained partly by the parish, and partly by fortune-telling, and gabbling of Cornish. In the year 1776, the same gentleman mentions her as still being alive, though exceedingly deaf; and it appears from her epitaph, which was formerly in Paul church-yard, that she lived to the great age of 102. Her epitaph was both in Cornish and

English; and as the sentiment it expresses is somewhat whimsical, we shall insert it,

Coth Dol Pentreath canz ha Deaw
Marir en Bedans en Powl pleu
Na en an Eglar ganna Poble braz
Bet en Eglar Hay Coth Dolly es!

Old Dol Pentreath, one hundred age & two,
Both born, and in Paul Parish buried too;
Not in the Church 'mongst people great and high,
But in the Church-Yard doth old Dolly lie!

Respecting Paul church, a curious fact lately occurred.—Not long since, the roof of the southern porch was repaired; when on removing the slates, &c. a wooden supporter of the roof exhibited marks of the fire which had partially injured it. The carpenter, Bodinnar, aware of the curiosity, preserved the wood thus burnt, which is distributed in pieces among the neighbouring gentlemen. We cannot but remark, how well the circumstance of a single supporter of

the roof of the porch being burnt, (and that the one nearest the body of the church) confirms a tradition still current in the west,—namely, "That the Spaniards met some females carrying wood and furze, and driving the women into the church, compelled them to let down their burdens near the south porch, the door of which they set open, to receive the blast of a strong south wind. The direction of the wind consumed the church, but preserved the porch, though when the flame got to its height it might momentarily affect the part of the porch nearest the door." On this subject, we may add, that the thick stone division at the back of Trewarveneth seat (which has puzzled many people) is a part of the old church, which escaped the fire. There is a tradition, that a farmer's wife found a Spaniard drunk and asleep in a corn-field, and that she cut his throat with a sickle. Another tradition is, that a farmer

cunningly set his furze-rick on fire, and ran from it in apparent trepidation; whence the Spaniards thinking that one of the parties had fired the village, passed by without molesting it.

In Paul church is the following curious notice of its having been burnt;—"*The Spanger burnt this church in the year* 1595."

In Mousehole there is a small pier, capable of admitting vessels of one hundred tons burthen; but is chiefly used by the fishing boats. In this village there is a meeting-house belonging to the methodists, in which divine service is regularly performed.

Mousehole is situated about two miles south-west of Penzance; is about half of a mile from Paul church-town; and contains about 600 inhabitants, the greater part of which are employed in the fisheries.

## CONCLUSION.

Having therefore completed the task we assigned ourselves, and given a true account of the places mentioned herein, we now take our leave, the traveller will receive ample gratification whenever he visits this interesting district of the British Empire; whilst the capitalist may see what great opportunities are presented for the advantageous exercise of money; and the valetudinarian, we hope will receive ample benefit from those mild, and genial breezes, which clothe our fields with perpetual verdure, and impart to the inhabitants the enviable blessings of long life and health.

*FINIS.*

Thomas, Printer, Penzance.

THE LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Santa Barbara

THIS BOOK IS DUE ON THE LAST DA
STAMPED BELOW.


3 1205 01489 2275

